

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ELLA YON
STEVENSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson of Norway, South Carolina. Today, I gladly join the community in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Stevenson was born in Orangeburg County in the town of Norway, South Carolina on March 17, 1899. She is the daughter of the late Glen and Henrietta G. Yon. As a child, she attended Norway Public Schools. Mrs. Stevenson joined Bushy Pond Baptist Church of Norway, South Carolina at a very early age. She enjoyed singing in the choir until her health prevented her from participating. She is strongly committed to her church and community. To this day, Mrs. Stevenson continually offers support to her neighbors, friends, and family.

Mrs. Stevenson cherishes her family. She married the late George W. Stevenson. They had four sons: George Stevenson, Jr., James Stevenson, Arthur Stevenson, and Levern Stevenson (all deceased), and two unique daughters, Clara Mae Stevenson Pough and Reather Bell Stevenson Pough. Mrs. Stevenson has 34 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, and 48 great-great grandchildren. She currently resides with her daughter Reather Bell in North, South Carolina.

Please join me in recognizing Mrs. Ella Yon Stevenson as she celebrates her 100th birthday today.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF
STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
ON THE ACCESSION TO NATO OF
POLAND, HUNGARY AND THE
CZECH REPUBLIC

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright presided over the ceremony marking the final step in the accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to membership in the North Atlantic Alliance. This was a historic occasion as these three former members of the Warsaw Pact, an alliance which was established to counter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, were now joining as full members of this western alliance.

Mr. Speaker, it was most appropriate that the ceremony marking full accession to NATO took place at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. It was under the far-sighted and thoughtful leadership of President Truman that NATO was established fifty years ago this year. We mark not only the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NATO, but also the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet dominance in Central and Eastern Europe.

If any one individual deserves credit for the end of communist domination in Europe and

for the end of the Soviet empire, Mr. Speaker, it is President Harry Truman. He was the President to make the critical decisions in the early days of the cold war; he was the President under whose leadership the policy of containment was enunciated; and he was the President who established the critical institutions which were the basis of U.S. policy throughout the cold war. His successors—from Dwight Eisenhower to Ronald Reagan and George Bush—were simply implementing the fundamental policy that was enunciated, initiated, and put in place by Harry Truman.

Mr. Speaker, the accession to NATO of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic at the Truman Library was a quintessentially "American" event—the United States Senator who introduced our Secretary of State, my friend and colleague from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, is Polish-American; I had the honor of participating in that event and, as my colleagues know, I am a native of Budapest, Hungary; and, of course, our Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright who presided on this occasion, was born in Prague in the Czech Republic.

The remarks on this festive occasion by our Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker, provide an outstanding statement of the U.S. government policy that underlies this landmark addition of new members to NATO. Secretary Albright's speech also provides an excellent summary of the importance of the first half century of the NATO alliance as well as a discussion of its future. I ask that Secretary Albright's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read and give them thoughtful attention.

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you, Senator Mikulski, for that wonderful and personal introduction, and thank you for your great friendship. I want to thank you and your colleagues, Senators Roth and Smith and Representatives Skelton, Lantos, and McCarthy for your bipartisan leadership on behalf of NATO and NATO enlargement. You have helped to make history, because without your support we would not be here today.

Minister Kavan, Minister Martonyi, and Minister Geremek, excellencies from the diplomatic corps, Admiral Gough, General Anderson and other leaders of our armed forces, officials of the Truman Library—thank you for remembering my daughter—honored guests, colleagues, and friends, today is a day of celebration and re-dedication and remembrance and renewal.

Today we recognize in fact what has always been true in spirit. Today we confirm through our actions that the lands of King Stephen and Cardinal Mindszenty, Charles the Fourth and Vaclav Havel, Copernicus and Pope John Paul II reside fully and irrevocably within the Atlantic community for freedom. And to that I say, to quote an old Central European expression, "Hallelujah." (Applause.)

History will record March 12, 1999, as the day the people of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland strode through NATO's open door and assumed their rightful place in NATO's councils.

To them I say that President Clinton's pledge is now fulfilled. Never again will your fates be tossed around like poker chips on a bargaining table. Whether you are helping to revise the Alliance's strategic concept or engaging in NATO's partnership with Russia, the promise of "nothing about you without you," is now formalized. You are truly allies; you are truly home.

This is a cause for celebration not only in Prague, Budapest and Warsaw, but through-

out the Alliance. For the tightening of transatlantic ties that we make today inspired the vision of transatlantic leaders half a century ago. That generation, which in Dean Acheson's famous phrase was "present at the creation," emerged from the horror of World War II determined to make another such war impossible. They had seen—and paid in blood—the price of division; so their policies were inclusive. They wanted to help build a transatlantic community of prosperity and peace that would include all of Europe.

But between the 1947 offering of the Marshall Plan and the forgoing of NATO two years later, it became evident that the reality of their times did not match the boldness of their vision. The Iron Curtain descended, and across the body of Europe, a brutal and unnatural division was imposed. Now, due to bravery on both sides, that curtain has lifted, and links that should have been secured long ago are being soldered together.

Today is evidence of that. For this morning, NATO is joined by three proud democracies—countries that have proven their ability to meet Alliance responsibilities, uphold Alliance values and defend Alliance interests.

Since the decision to invite new members was first made, President Clinton has argued that a larger NATO would make America safer, our Alliance stronger and Europe more peaceful and united. Today, we see that this is already the case. For NATO's new members bring with them many strengths. Their citizens have a tradition of putting their lives on the line for liberty: Witness Hungary's courageous freedom fighters in 1956; the students who faced down tanks in the streets of Prague 12 years later; and the workers of Gdansk whose movement for Solidarity ushered in Europe's new dawn.

As young democracies, these countries have been steadfast in supporting the vision of an integrated Europe. Their troops are serving alongside NATO forces in Bosnia. And each is contributing to stability in its own neighborhood.

As a daughter of the region, and a former professor of Central and East European affairs, I know many Americans have not always had the understanding of this region that they now do. Earlier this century, when Jan Masaryk, son of the Czech President, came to the United States, an American Senator asked him, how is your father; and does he still play the violin?

Jan replied, sir, I fear that you are making a small mistake. You are perhaps thinking of Paderewski and not Masaryk. Paderewski plays the piano, not the violin, and was President not of Czechoslovakia, but of Poland. (Laughter.)

Of our Presidents, Benes was the only one who played; but he played neither the violin nor the piano, but football. In all other respects, your information is correct. (Laughter.)

Later, after his father had died and World War II had been fought, Jan Masaryk became Czechoslovak Foreign Minister—my father's boss. It soon became clear that the revival of Czechoslovak democracy and Czechoslovak aspirations to be part of the West would be short-lived.

Czechoslovakia was also invited to join the Marshall Plan. However, Foreign Minister Masaryk was summoned to Moscow and told that Czechoslovakia had to refuse the invitation. He returned to Prague to tell his colleagues, "I now know I am not the Foreign Minister of a sovereign country."

Masaryk's statement reminds us of another great gift the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary bring to our Alliance for freedom: the living memory of living without freedom.